

What's Your Story?

news for & from alaska's middle schoolers vol. 8 no. 1

Fall 2011

BUILDING TRADES



8

WRITING



10

MEDICAL



2

ARCHITECTURE



4



More stories inside!



What's YOUR story going to be?



Want to tell your story?
See back cover for more details.

I want to be an architect.



AIDAN KUHNE
8th Grade, Bethel Regional HS, Bethel

I want to own a horse ranch.



MARTINA YANISH
6th Grade, IDEA Homeschool, Fairbanks



I want to be a construction worker.



JAEHLICYRUS FUNGCHENFEN
7th Grade, Central MS of Science, Anchorage

I want to be a science writer.



KOREYN POWERS
7th Grade, Raven Correspondence School, Juneau

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Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
800 East Dimond Blvd., Ste. 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99515



PRSRT STANDARD
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ANCHORAGE AK
PERMIT #69

I want a job in medicine...

7th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



AMANDA ALEXANDER

I want to be a medical examiner or a judge.

6th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



SERENITY MCLEOD

I want to be a doctor.

I want to be a nurse or massage therapist.



KATIE DRUYVESTEIN

6th Grade, Floyd Dryden MS, Juneau



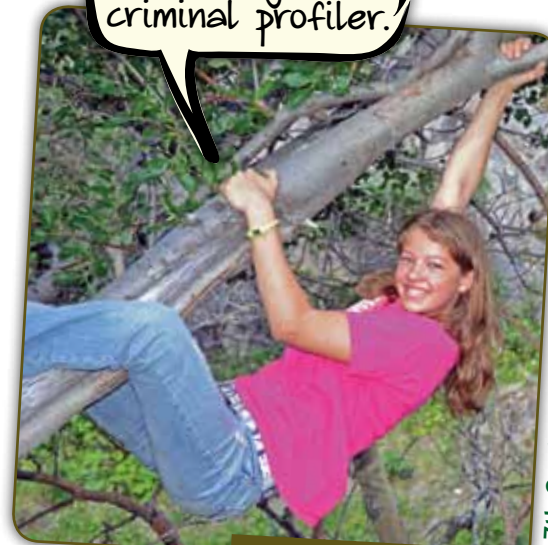
6th Grade, Tikigag School, Point Hope



JOHN OMNIK

I want to be a kidney specialist.

I want to be a radiologist or criminal profiler.



MEGAN TITZEL

7th Grade, Wendler MS, Anchorage

KAITLYN BAUSLER

WYS—What did you enjoy doing during your childhood?

KB-- Growing up in Juneau, I enjoyed camping and hiking with my family, and participating in sports like ski racing and synchronized swimming with my friends. I really enjoyed art, science, and media classes in middle school. I had a great teacher, Mr. Jones, in 7th and 8th grade who made science engaging and interesting. During high school, I spent a year as an exchange student in Bern, Switzerland and learned German while I was there.

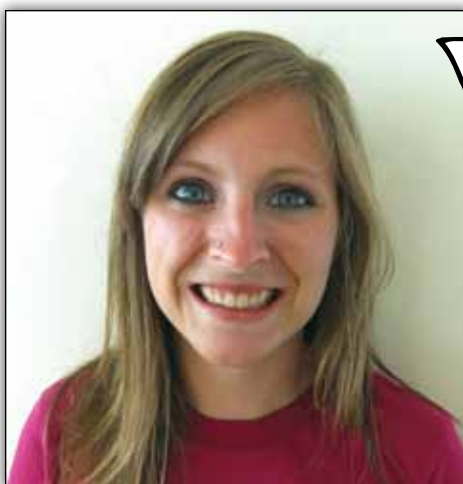
WYS—Have you always wanted to be a nurse?

KB-- When I was younger, I wanted to be everything from a CIA agent to a professional athlete. After spending time in Switzerland, I wanted a career where I could live or travel internationally, so when I started college I was set on studying international relations. However, after taking a few classes in college and witnessing a family member in a near-death accident where I felt totally helpless, I knew that the medical field was right for me.

WYS—Who inspired you?

KB-- My dad, who is a nurse practitioner and physician assistant, showed me the importance of caring for everyone by letting me tag along when he went to the homeless shelter every week to give free medical care to the needy. My parents have always believed in me and have allowed me to discover my interests and passions.

“College gives you the freedom to explore your interests.”



High School Graduated:
Juneau-Douglas High School,
Juneau, AK

Current College:
University of Alaska Anchorage,
Anchorage, AK

Major:
Nursing

WYS—What do you like best about college?

KB-- College gives you the freedom to explore your interests. There are literally thousands of classes to choose from. I like working in the hospitals and helping patients. Working hands-on in a real setting is a great learning experience, and gives me a taste of what it will be like when I'm an actual nurse.

WYS—Do you have advice for students thinking about their future?

KB-- There are lots of opportunities to take advantage of, like internships and volunteer opportunities. While traveling, I learned a lot about myself as well as valuable skills - like how to budget. Although I had an unforgettable time traveling, having a college degree is invaluable to my future and will help me be that much more successful in my life.

SAVINGS MATTER

No matter what financial assistance may be available in the future, you can act now to make a difference. Alaskans are extremely fortunate to have a potential source for saving every year - investing part or all of your Permanent Fund Dividend in a savings account or college savings program is a great financial step to achieving your education and career goals.

Just think, if you start in 7th grade and put half of your PFD into an investment account you can have almost \$5,000 when you are ready to start college. If you invest the entire divided you'll have almost \$10,000 to get you on the road to success.*

For more tips on saving smart for college visit Alaska's college savings plan online at: www.uacollegesavings.com.

*Based on average PFD of \$1,400 with 5% interest compounded monthly.

8th Grade, Mears MS, Anchorage



I want to be a doctor and play basketball.

KRISTIANA MAKIHELE

I want to be a doctor.



6th Grade, Blatchley MS, Sitka

SELENA ALEXANDROPOULOS

I want to be a doctor or pharmacist and play bass in a band.



8th Grade, Nuiqsut Trapper School, Nuiqsut

ELIJAH WILLIAMS

I want to be a doctor and play soccer.



6th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage

SAMANTHA ANARUK



KELLY POWERS

High School Graduated:
Dimond High School, Anchorage, AK

Colleges Graduated:
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME:
Bachelor of Arts in Biochemistry
Oregon Health and Sciences University, Portland, OR:
Doctor of Medicine
Brown University, Providence, RI: Board Certification in Diagnostic Radiology and Fellowship Training with a sub-specialization in Women's Imaging

Current Career:
Radiologist/Physician, Alaska Radiology Associates, Anchorage, AK

“I love my job.”

Kelly grew up in Anchorage and went to Bayshore Elementary, Mears Jr. High and Dimond High School. Her family spent summers camping and boating in Prince William Sound. Kelly competed in alpine ski racing and swimming during high school.

WYS—What is your job?

KP-- I am a radiologist. My specialty deals with obtaining and interpreting diagnostic imaging tests that patients undergo. I interpret x-rays, ultrasounds, CT scans, MRIs, mammograms, and fluoroscopy studies. I also use imaging to help guide procedures I perform, such as biopsies and drainages. I specialize in Women's Imaging, which allows me to interact with my patients during procedures or diagnoses.

WYS—How much education did it take to get there?

KP-- To become a radiologist you must complete high school, attend a four-year college, and then complete four years of medical school, a one-year internship and four years of residency, which is on-the-job-training under a licensed physician. If you specialize further, fellowships are an additional one to three years.

WYS—What do you like most about your career?

KP-- I love my job. It is constantly challenging in that every patient is different; the technology rapidly evolves, and the disease processes are so numerous. My biggest rewards come from patient interactions, and helping a nervous or anxious patient navigate through a procedure or understand a result. The most challenging aspect is the vast amount of information out there that I need to know.



WORD FIND

Find the following words in any direction:

ENJOY	MEDICINE	BONES
JOB	DOCTOR	DAD
MRIS	HEALTH	NURSE
ART	FUTURE	BODY
XRAYS	SCIENCE	TISSUE
OREGON	RADIOLOGIST	

J	X	R	A	Y	S	T	A
E	O	A	K	R	J	R	X
N	L	D	O	C	T	O	R
I	Y	I	A	T	I	H	B
C	D	O	H	D	S	T	O
I	O	L	J	C	S	L	N
D	B	O	E	N	U	A	E
E	M	G	R	S	E	E	S
M	R	I	S	E	S	H	U
H	Y	S	E	R	G	X	E
F	U	T	U	R	E	O	I
E	C	N	E	I	C	S	N

What are Diagnostic Imaging Tests?

X-Rays are images made from small amounts of electromagnetic radiation recorded on radiographic film. Bones appear white on the radiograph. Muscles and fat appear gray, while lungs appear black.

Ultrasounds, also known as sonograms, use painless, high-frequency sound waves to produce images of certain areas inside your body.

CT scans are a set of X-rays taken from various angles which give a cross-section image of the bones and soft tissue.

MRIs, magnetic resonance imaging, use magnetic and radio waves to reveal images of organs and tissues inside the body.

Mammograms are black and white images produced with low amounts of radiation.

Fluoroscopy transmits an X-ray through the body and an image is then transmitted to a screen so that the movement of the body part receiving the X-ray can be observed in detail, similar to an X-ray movie.

I want to work in architecture...

I want to be an architect.



AARON COOKE

Aaron was born in Fairbanks and grew up in Anchorage. As a kid, he played soccer, drew cartoons and made a lot of tree forts. He went to Sand Lake Elementary and Mears Middle School. After graduating from Dimond High School, he attended college in Colorado, then studied to be an architect at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio.

WYS—What do you do in your job?

AC-- I am an architectural designer at the Cold Climate Housing Research Center. I design experimental buildings and test home designs in places with extreme cold, extreme wind, and permafrost, to see how they perform and how they might be built better. My job takes me all over Alaska, Canada, Norway and Russia. I've seen so many amazing places. Each place I go, there are serious challenges to building homes and I get to talk to people in each community about how housing could be improved in their region.

WYS—What advice would like to share?

AC-- When I was a kid, my grandfather told me 'find out what it is you really enjoy doing then find someone to pay you to do it'. I think that was great advice. High school is a great time to take any class that looks interesting and find new things you may enjoy doing.



8th Grade, Buckland School, Buckland

TRISTEN HUNNICUTT

MEGAN LIERMAN

WYS—What is your job?
What did it take to get there?

ML-- I got a 4-year degree that included classes in drawing, painting, art history, 3-Dimensional design, CAD drafting, and textile labs. I took enough classes to get my degree in clothing & textiles, so I would have options if I couldn't find a design job - which I did. Designing building interiors includes meeting with the client to find out how they need their space to function and how many people the space needs to accommodate. Then I get to be creative fitting it all in. It's like a giant puzzle! I love the interaction I have with clients & being creative on a daily basis. There's nothing cooler than walking into a building that I designed and seeing my ideas in real life.

“It's like a giant puzzle!”

High School Graduated:
Grace Christian School,
Anchorage, AK

Colleges Attended/Graduated:
University of Alaska Anchorage,
Anchorage, AK

Seattle Pacific University,
Seattle, WA:
Bachelor of Arts in Interior
Design, Clothing and Textiles

Current Career:
Interior Designer, RIM Design,
Anchorage, AK



“I've seen so many amazing places.”

Sudoku

	2	4	9	3	8		6	
8	3	1		6		5	4	9
6		7	1		4	2		3
9		2		8	1		5	
1	6		4		5	9		8
		8	2		3	7	1	
7		6	5		9	8		2
	4	5	8			6	9	1
2	8		3	1		4	7	5

How to play: Fill in the blank spaces with the numbers 1 - 9. Every row, column and 3 x 3 box must contain all nine digits with no number repeated.

“Everyone has potential for greatness!”

I want to be an architect.

8th Grade, Bethel Regional HS, Bethel



AIDAN KUHNE

MICHAEL FREDERICKS

WYS—What do you do?

MF-- I own and operate an architecture firm that completes master planning and building projects statewide. I specialize in design that includes the input of the user throughout the design process. To do this, I first got a 4-year undergraduate degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, then a 2-year Masters Degree in Architecture.

WYS—What challenges did you overcome in school?

MF-- People have all different types of learning styles. I'm incredibly dyslexic and realized late in life (after high school) that I think in 3-D, rather than in words. Never be afraid to ask questions. Demand another explanation in a different style. Everyone has potential for greatness!



High School Graduated:

West High School, Anchorage, AK

Colleges Attended/Graduated:

University of Washington, Seattle, WA:

Bachelor of Architecture

University of Illinois, Chicago, IL:

Masters of Architecture

Current Career:

President, RIM First People,

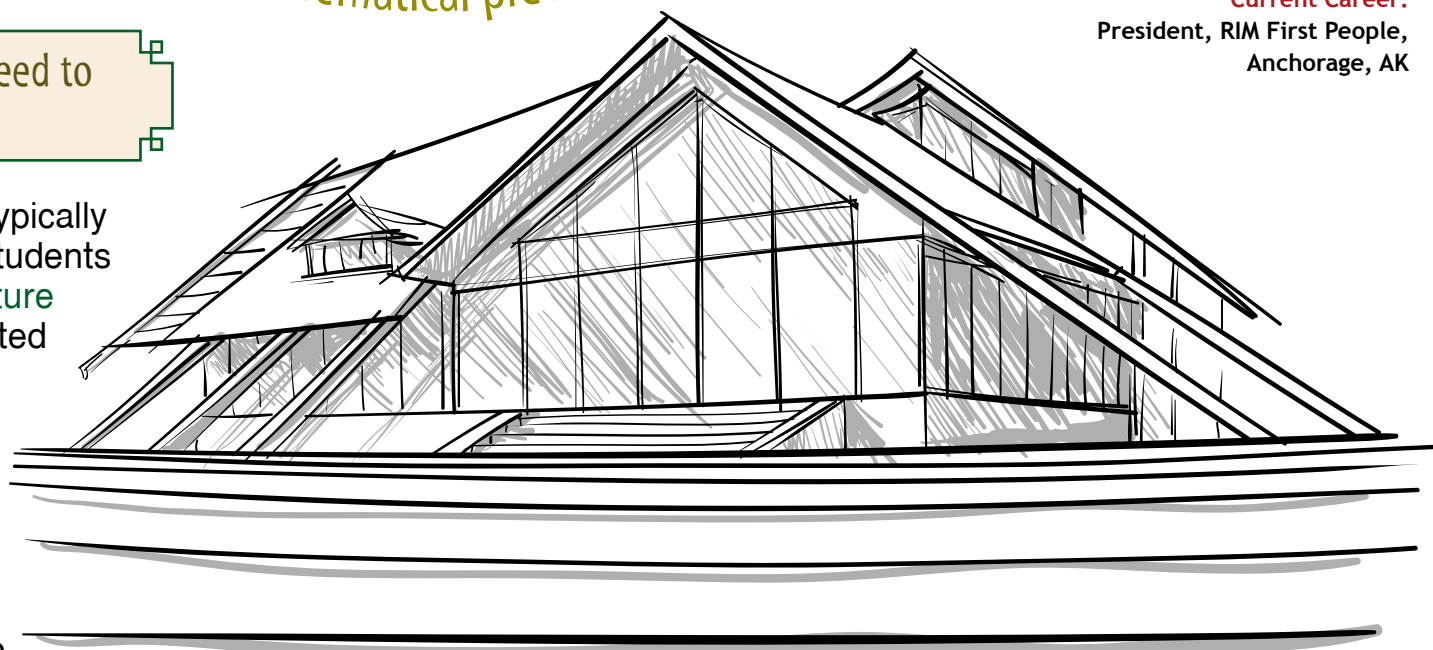
Anchorage, AK

Architecture—combining creativity with mathematical precision.

How much schooling do I need to become an architect?

A **Bachelor of Architecture** typically takes **five years** to complete. Students pursuing a **Master of Architecture** take **two additional years** of related coursework, and those seeking a **Doctor of Architecture** spend a total of **nine years** in school. An Associates of Architecture prepares you for drafting structural plans for architectural projects. There are over 100 architecture programs in the U.S.

accredited through the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB).



Architectural Technology Programs in Alaska

Degree Program	Degree or Certificate Available	Alaska Colleges
Architectural & Engineering Technology	Associate in Applied Sciences (AAS Degree)	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College
CAD for Building Construction	Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC)	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College, Charter College
Structural Drafting	Certificate leading to Associate in Arts (AA Degree)	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College
Mechanical & Electrical Drafting	Certificate	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College
Civil Drafting	Certificate	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College
Architectural Drafting	Certificate	University Alaska Anchorage, Mat-Su College

What do you want to be

I want to own a horse ranch.



6th Grade, IDEA Homeschool, Fairbanks

MARTINA YANISH



I want to be a veterinarian.



8th Grade, Begich MS, Anchorage

TORI TIMM

I want to be a lawyer.



6th Grade, Begich MS, Anchorage

BALIN PARTON

I want to be a police officer.



8th Grade, Romig MS, Anchorage

ALI KARIEF



I want to be an actor, trombone player, animator or professional dancer.



7th Grade, Blatchley MS, Sitka

ZIMRI HINSHAW

This summer, Zimri won first place in the Sitka 48-Hour Film Festival for his short film *Chew on This*.

Zimri was given a character, prop, line of dialogue and a genre for his film. He had just 48 hours to put these elements into his films, write the scripts, film the movies, edit and provide music.

Check out his videos:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFYmNrEnkhY&feature=related

www.youtube.com/watch?v=zVko7OSPppQ&feature=related

I want to be a game designer.



8th Grade, Romig MS, Anchorage

RAEGUAN ROBINSON

I want to be professional dancer and football player.



8th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage

RAHJAE EVANS

I want to be teacher or ch



MICHAELA ROBINSON

I want to join the army.



8th Grade, Romig MS, Anchorage

DIONTE KITSICK

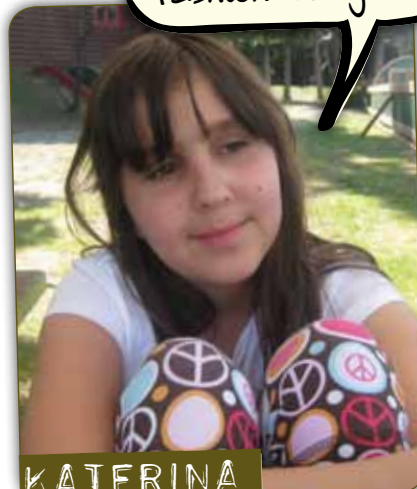
I want to design and produce video games.



8th Grade, Unalaska City School, Unalaska

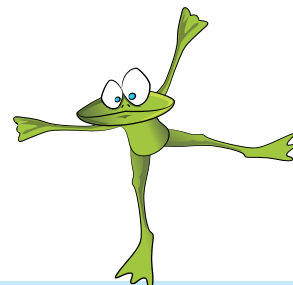
BUDDY KUKAHIKO

I want to be a singer, pianist, or fashion designer.

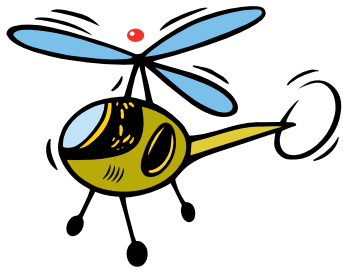


6th Grade, North Pole MS, North Pole

KATERINA BAUMGARTNER



when you grow up?



CROSSWORD

PUZZLE

Find the answers on these two pages.

Down:

- 1. Ali wants to be a ____ officer.
- 2. Tori wants to be a ____.
- 6. Dionte wants to join the ____.
- 7. Who wants to be a meterologist?

Across:

- 3. Martina wants to own a ____ ranch.
- 4. Raequan wants to be a game ____.
- 5. Both Zimri and Rahjae want to be a ____ dancer.
- 7. Michaela wants to be a ____ or chef.
- 8. Balin wants to be a ____.



ASK PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

There are many different careers in our communities. One of the best ways to learn about your options is from people who work in them. That person might be a parent, relative, teacher, or family friend. If you don't know anyone who works in the area that interests you, ask your parents or teachers for some ideas on who you could ask about the work they do.

You can ask them:

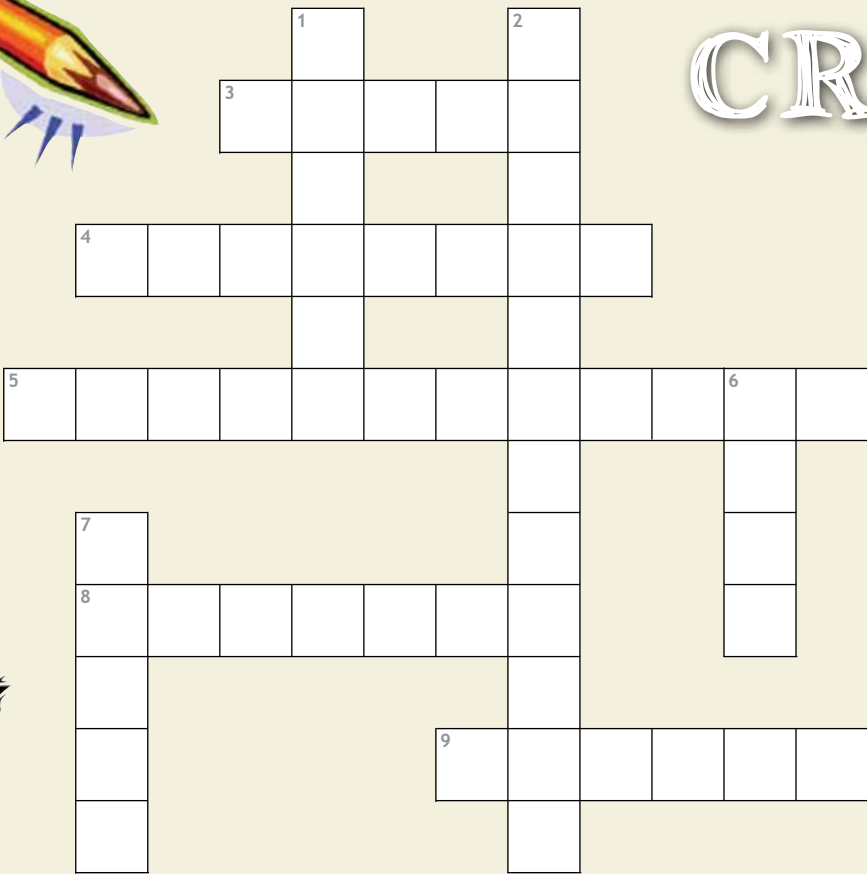
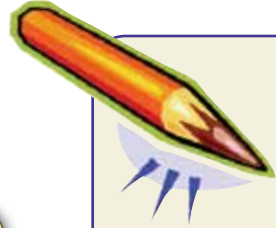
What do you do in your career?

What do you like most and least about your job?

What did you do to prepare for your career?

What subjects/activities helped prepare you for this career?

Is there any other advice you can give me?



8th Grade, Romig MS, Anchorage

8th Grade, Bethel Regional High School, Bethel



ETHAN FORBES



Careers, Careers, Careers....

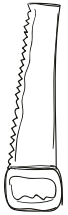
A great source to learn all about hundreds of different careers. Ask your teacher or counselor if your school is an active member of the AKCIS family in Alaska. AKCIS is free to all Alaska schools! If your teacher or principal needs more information, tell them they can call the AKCIS Helpline (877) 269-7974 or 269-6929 in Anchorage at, or email akcis@alaska.gov.

akcis.org

I want to work in the building trades...



Construction Academy Provides Central Middle School Students with Carpentry Skills



This fall, students at Central Middle School in Anchorage worked with instructor Keith Hodson to construct two storage sheds. Sawdust flew as students learned to use miter saws, drills, and band saws. Students applied their math skills to real world projects, as they learned the basics of framing a building, the importance of safety and teamwork, and other valuable skills that will prepare them for vocational education in carpentry. By the end of the first week, students had already erected two of four wall frames for their first project, the shed.



John Woyak and Mr. Hodson, Central MS in Anchorage.

7th Grade, Central MS of Science, Anchorage



JAEHLICYRUS
FUNGCHENFEN

I want to be a construction worker.

8th Grade, Clark MS, Anchorage



RYAN BENNETT

I want to be a construction engineer, supervising plans and building the actual project.

“I like making a real positive change in clients’ lives.”

TRAVIS LIZER

WYS—Tell us about your career.

TL-- Currently I work in residential construction. I find fairly steady work year round in the residential sector, though I have also worked in industrial and commercial construction in the past. Every job I take offers new challenges, so the work is far from boring.

WYS—What education or training have you had?

TL-- I was fortunate to find work as an expeditor while beginning the Construction Management degree program at UAA. Expeditors are responsible for scheduling work, ordering supplies, and scheduling the delivery of materials and equipment. So far, I have completed 40 credits and have about 20 more to go. I definitely feel that the courses I have already completed have given me a competitive edge in the job market. Today I am a lead carpenter with Trailboss Solutions. Someday I will be a general contractor with a team of well organized people working together to build people’s dream homes.

WYS—What is most rewarding about your job?

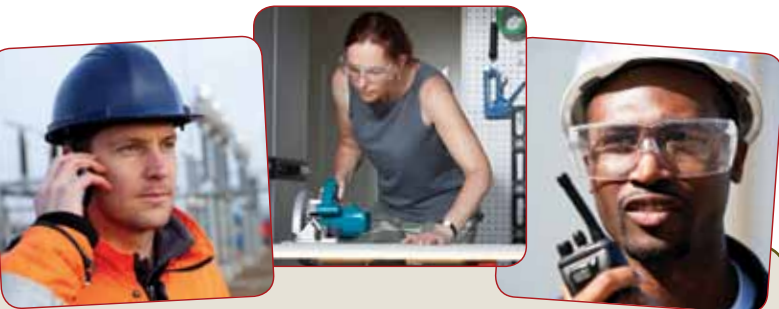
TL-- I like making a real positive change in my clients’ lives. A home is the most personal kind of space, and I enjoy using my craft and skill to make homes better for people.



Current College:
University of Alaska
Anchorage, Anchorage, AK

Major:
Construction Management

Current Career:
Lead Carpenter, Trailboss
Solutions, Anchorage, AK



Construction Management degrees & training in Alaska

University of Alaska Anchorage

- ◆ Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree - 2-3 years
- ◆ Bachelor of Science (BS) degree - 4-5 years

Northern Industrial Training (NIT)

- ◆ Coursework in construction trades (Palmer)

AVTEC

- ◆ Facility Maintenance Construction (Seward)

Alaska Apprenticeship Training Coordinators Association

- ◆ Training programs in over 20 different construction trades (Fairbanks and Juneau)

Alaska Works Partnership

- ◆ Alaska Construction Academies (Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Mat-Su, and Nome)
- ◆ Women In-The-Trades (Anchorage)

“I enjoy the challenge of learning new things...”

I want to be an electrical or petroleum engineer.



KANE GILLILAN

7th Grade, Bethel Regional HS, Bethel

JASON REEDY

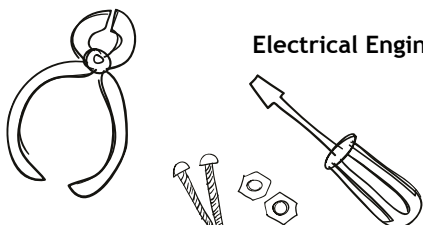
High School Graduated:
Lathrop High School, Fairbanks, AK

Career Training:
Alaska Works Partnership - Anchorage
Construction Academy, Anchorage, AK

Current Career:
Electrical Apprentice

Current College:
University of Alaska Anchorage,
Anchorage, AK

Major:
Electrical Engineering



Jason grew up mainly in Fairbanks and attended Ryan Middle School and Lathrop High. His hobbies included snowboarding, building things and remote control models.

WYS—What training have you had for your career?

JR-- I am an electrical apprentice and have completed basic electrical coursework and a 50-hour certificate program through the Alaska Works Partnership - Anchorage Construction Academy. I have also begun coursework for the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering through UAA. In addition, I have been trained in forklift safety, first aid and CPR - all of which are important skills for people with careers in the construction and building trades.

WYS—What do you enjoy most?

JR-- Right now, I'm living my dream and stepping into where I want to be. By doing a good job in my work, I am giving myself a good name in my trade. I enjoy the challenge of learning new things, making circuits work, and turning things on. It's especially fun to picture the job from start to finish and see a client's face as they see the finished product.

FEONA PETER

WYS—Tell us about your background.

FP-- I grew up in Soldotna and went to the Project Education Residential Charter School in Galena for high school where I took courses in construction, wood shop, and welding. I have always had an interest in architecture, engineering and construction. In fact, I used to build fully-furnished houses out of play dough. I've earned certificates from electrical courses completed through the Alaska Works Partnership - Kenai Construction Academy and Alaska Job Corps. I completed drafting courses at both UAA and Charter College, and received a certificate for completion of the Alaska Works Partnership - Women-in-the-Trades course. I also have completed multiple safety and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) trainings through Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA).

WYS—What do you do for a living?

FP-- This past May I began training to be an inside wireman through an electrician apprenticeship program with IBEW. I am in the first year of a four-year apprenticeship which requires seven weeks of classes each year. Once I complete 8,000 work hours I will reach journeyman status. It is very challenging and labor intensive, but I am paid well, learn new things every day and enjoy installing electrical wiring in commercial buildings. This past summer I even had the opportunity to use my skills to work on the Glenn Highway lighting project - installing conduit, pulling wire, and working with pre-fabricated materials.

WYS—What advice do you have for middle school students?

FP-- Construction trades require a lot of hard work, so be sure to try out a wide variety of construction classes and pursue what interests you most. Women aren't treated any different than guys in this field, so you really have to pull your own weight and be passionate about what you do.



High School Graduated:
Project Education Residential Charter School,
Galena, AK

Career Training:
Alaska Works Partnership, Kenai & Anchorage, AK
University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK
Charter College, Anchorage, AK

Current Apprenticeship:
Alaska Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training
Trust with International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers (IBEW)



WORD FIND

C	A	R	E	E	R	S	P	C	P	R	W
D	T	R	A	D	E	S	L	O	C	H	O
V	E	A	V	E	N	G	I	N	E	E	R
H	C	G	R	I	A	L	A	S	K	A	S
E	N	G	N	R	V	N	D	T	N	S	O
S	E	W	E	S	T	C	V	R	I	T	L
D	I	O	B	T	E	O	I	U	D	R	D
E	C	M	O	U	C	B	C	C	H	U	O
H	S	E	J	D	I	J	E	T	O	K	T
S	O	N	S	E	S	D	O	I	R	C	N
A	T	U	R	N	T	R	I	O	U	A	A
V	E	M	A	T	S	U	W	N	E	E	R
C	O	U	R	S	E	S	I	O	G	O	N

--Find these words in any direction--

WORK	TRADES	STUDENTS	JOB
SCIENCE	SOLDOTNA	ENGINEER	ADVICE
ALASKA	COURSES	CAREER	WOMEN
UAA	CONSTRUCTION	SHEDS	MATSU

“Pursue what interests you most.”

I want to write...



I want to write poetry and stories, and illustrate children's books.

7th Grade, Kenai MS, Kenai



SHANIJA WALTERS

I want to be a science writer.



KORBYN POWERS

7th Grade, Raven Correspondence School, Juneau

I want to be an author.



REBECCA MILLER

8th Grade, Wendler MS, Anchorage



JODY HASSEL



As a kid, Jody's main hobbies were riding her bike, dancing and singing. She and her brother made up plays and produced short films. About six years ago, she was reunited with her birth mother and discovered her birth father was a professional Samoan fire-knife dancer, which might explain why she loves dancing so much!

WYS—Any memorable middle school moments?

JH-- In the 8th grade I was cast as the lead in a play called Seven Wives for Dracula. During the performance, I was standing in the wings in a line of girls waiting to go on stage. We all held a lighted candle in our hands. I turned my head to look at the girl behind me, and, when I turned back around, I had lit the hair of the girl in front of me on fire! Luckily I was able to blow it out before we went on stage and she wasn't too mad.

WYS—Have you always wanted to be a writer?

JH-- When I was young my main aspiration was to be a singer. Just this past summer, our choir toured Italy and I enjoyed singing in many beautiful Italian churches.

My career goals are now focused on writing, and last year one of my essays was published in a journal called Rosebud. Although I still write songs, poems, screenplays and stories, I am focusing my graduate thesis work on creative nonfiction.

WYS—What has college done for you?

JH-- When I was in high school I didn't really like reading that much. In the past two years of college I have improved so much that I have been able to read up to 800 pages a week! I never thought I'd be able to do that. My undergraduate college studies in Theatre Arts, Communication, English and Music have helped me to become more of who I truly am in ways that would not have been possible if I hadn't gone to college. And college is fun! I've met my best lifelong friends in college and wouldn't trade my college years for anything.

WYS—What words of wisdom can you share with future college students?

JH-- No matter what you may think about your ability to make it through college, you will find that most universities and teachers are there to support your efforts and that people are truly interested in helping you hone your talents and achieve your dreams.

“College is fun!”



High School Graduated:
Lathrop High School, Fairbanks, AK

College Graduated:
University of Alaska Fairbanks,
Fairbanks, AK: Bachelor of Arts in
Theater Arts with a Minor in Vocal
Performance

Current College:
University of Alaska Fairbanks,
Fairbanks, AK

Major:
Creative Writing

BE THE FIRST PERSON IN YOUR FAMILY TO GO TO COLLEGE!

Even if no one in your family ever went to college, that doesn't mean you can't. It takes just one person in a family to act upon that dream and **be the example** for others to follow. It may seem scary at first, but all it takes is a little **courage and determination**. Talk to your teachers, counselor or principal about what college is and how to prepare. **Ask questions!** Find out what you can do now to get ready. Take high school classes that will help prepare you – did you know there's a scholarship that rewards taking **challenging classes**? (See right.) Find out about mentoring or enrichment programs to help you succeed in education during and after high school. **Seek role models**. Surround yourself with people who have succeeded and ask how they did it. You may find someone else who was also the first to **go to college!**





EOWYN IVEY

High School Graduated:
Palmer High School, Palmer, AK

Colleges Graduated:
Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA:
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism
University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK:
Graduate Writing Workshop

Career:
Novelist with Little, Brown & Co., and
Bookseller, Fireside Books, Palmer, AK

Eowyn (A-o-win) grew up in Palmer, Alaska, and attended Swanson and Sherrod elementary schools, Palmer Junior High, and Palmer High. She always loved the outdoors - hunting, fishing, and hiking. She has also always been an avid reader and loves to write stories.

WYS—Tell us about your degree and career path.

El-- My degree and post-graduate study are in journalism and creative writing. I also regularly attend conferences, workshops, and other writing and book events around the country. I work part-time as a bookseller at Fireside Books. My first novel, *The Snow Child*, will be published in February by Little, Brown & Co., as well as publishers in a dozen or so other countries. I spend much of my time emailing with editors as we get the book ready.

I also spent nearly a decade as a reporter at the *Frontiersman* newspaper, writing weekly articles about my outdoor adventures and working as assistant editor. My articles and photographs have been published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, *Alaska Magazine*, and other publications.

WYS—What do you like best about your career?

El-- I love books - reading and writing them. It has been a dream come true to have my own book picked up by a publisher. As a part-time bookseller and full-time mom, it's sometimes hard to find enough time for a second career as a novelist. But it has been entirely worth it.

WYS—What advice can you give students?

El-- While I think it's important to look at practical realities, such as salary and benefits, I also think you should hold on to your dreams. Keep them in your sights, work hard, and you never know how and when those dreams might come true.



Eowyn's book, *The Snow Child*, is the story of a couple homesteading in Alaska in the 1920's. The couple, unable to conceive a child of their own, decides to build one out of snow. The next morning, the snow child is gone, but they catch glimpses of a young blonde girl running through the woods.

“Hold on to your dreams.”

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Look for clues on these two pages.

Down

1. “___ on to your dreams.”
2. Alaska, abbr.
3. Jody went to Lathrop High ___.
6. Eowyn's ___ and post-graduate study are in journalism and creative writing.
8. Korbyn wants to be a science ___.
9. Eowyn's book title is Snow ___.
11. Grade Point Average, abbr.

Across

2. Jody has a Bachelor of ___ in Theatre Arts.
4. While in the 8th grade, Jody set a girl's hair on fire with this.
5. Eowyn wrote a ___ called *Snow Child*.
7. How many pathways to success could earn you the APS?
9. “___ is fun!”
10. While it's ___ to look at practical realities, Eowyn also thinks you should hold on to your dreams.
11. One of the characters in *The Snow Child* is a young blonde ___.
12. Jody's father was a Samoan fire-knife ___.
13. Alaska Performance Scholarship, abbr.



Alaska Performance Scholarship

Did you know there's a scholarship for college or career training in the state that you can earn by taking challenging classes in high school and earning good grades and test scores?

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Get started off in high school on the right foot! Plan to follow one of these two pathways to success:

- 👉 **Math and Science:** Four years of math, four years of English, four years of science, and four years of social studies (one of which can be a world language, fine arts, or cultural heritage).
- 👉 **Social Studies and Language:** Three years of math, four years of English, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of the same world language.

Next, make sure you study hard and earn the highest GPA and test scores you can--the better your results, the larger your scholarship! To learn more about the Alaska Performance Scholarship and how to apply, go to APS.alaska.gov.



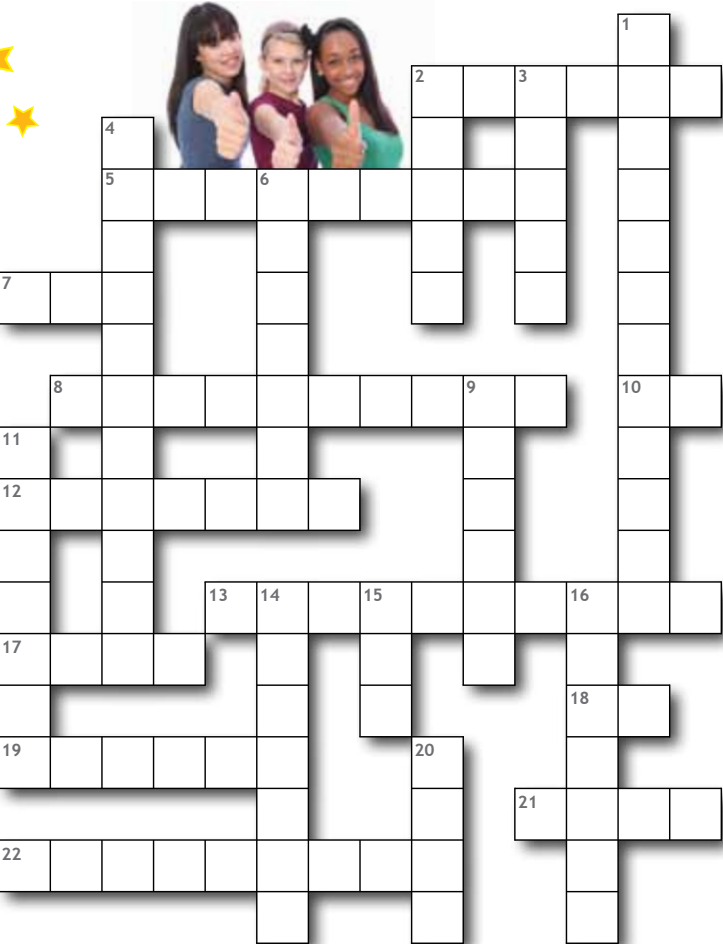
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
YOUR STATE HIGHER EDUCATION AGENCY

The Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education
- funded by the Alaska Student Loan Corporation -
promotes access to and success in education and career
training beyond high school.

What's your Story?, ACPE's middle school newspaper,
is published twice a year to provide encouragement and
resources for students about to enter high school.

AKadvantage.alaska.gov

Crossword Puzzle



Look for clues
throughout the
newspaper.

Down:

1. Tori Timm wants to be a ____.
2. Eowyn's book is called Snow ____.
3. Martina Yanish wants to own a horse ____.
4. Alaska ____ Scholarship (APS)
6. Jody Hassel says "____ is fun!"
9. John Omnik wants to be a ____ specialist.
11. Eowyn Ivey loves to write ____.
14. When Kaitlyn Bausler was young she wanted to be a professional ____.
15. Alaska Performance Scholarship, abbr.
16. Four years of ____ are required for the Alaska Performance Scholarship.
20. Kelly Powers has a Bachelor of ____ in Biochemistry.

Across:

2. Jason Reedy's current ____ is Electrical Apprentice.
5. Alaska Commission on Postsecondary ____ (ACPE)
7. University of Alaska Fairbanks, abbr.
8. Michael ____ says "Everyone has the potential for greatness!"
10. Alaska, abbr.
12. Michaela Robinson wants to be a ____ or chef.
13. Page 8 lists construction ____ degrees & training in Alaska.
17. International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, abbr.
18. Be the first in your family to ____ to college!
19. Four years of ____ studies is required for the APS.
21. A Bachelor of Architecture typically takes ____ years to complete.
22. Aidan Kuhne wants to be an ____.

Do you know which Alaska college campus this is?



Answer: University of Alaska Fairbanks, Kuskokwim Campus, Bethel.

Can you picture yourself here?

Share your news!

WHAT ARE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS DOING IN YOUR AREA?

Maybe there is an exciting summer program or camp in your town. There might be a community service project in which middle school students are active and involved. We'd love to include your news in the spring issue of *What's Your Story?*

Call us at 269-7972 (Anchorage area) or toll-free at (877) 577-3367 (outside the Anchorage area) and we'll tell you how to share your news and become part of *What's Your Story?*



What will your story be?

Have you started writing your own story?

You can start by doing the following:

1. Set goals for your future;
2. Learn and work towards those goals; AND,
3. Ask for help from others (parents, friends, teachers, counselors, principals and anyone who you trust and know) who want to support you in reaching your goals.

Your actions and attitude can help you create a satisfying and successful life story.

Interested in sharing your story?

Ask your teacher or parent to call 269-7972 (toll-free outside Anchorage 877-577-3367) to learn how YOU can be part of the next issue!

